

**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please add the following new paragraph at the end of the application:

--ABSTRACT

A process for the production of carboxylic acid esters by reaction of a carboxylic acid selected from mono-, di- and polycarboxylic acids, with an alcohol in the presence of water of solution comprising the steps of: (a) providing a solution comprising the carboxylic acid and the water of solution; (b) reacting the solution of the carboxylic acid in an esterification zone with an alcohol to form an ester and water of esterification; (c) removing the water of solution and the water of esterification; and (d) recovering the ester.--